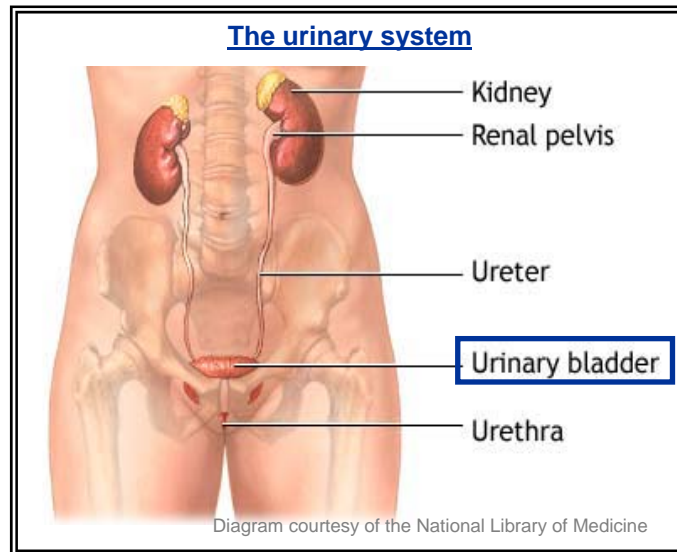


Bladder Exstrophy

What is bladder exstrophy?

Bladder exstrophy occurs when the **bladder** and its associated structures are improperly formed. Normally, the bladder is round; children with bladder exstrophy have a flattened bladder. In addition, the bladder is exposed outside the abdomen (stomach area) because the skin covering the abdomen does not form properly.



What causes bladder exstrophy?

Currently, the exact cause of bladder exstrophy is unknown. Children with bladder exstrophy usually also have other abnormalities of the abdominal muscles and pelvic bones. Approximately 1 out of every 30,000 children are born with bladder exstrophy.

How is bladder exstrophy treated?

Bladder exstrophy is treated surgically. Several surgical treatment options are available, but they depend upon the severity of the condition. The goals of treatment include correcting the abnormal placement of the bladder and ensuring that the child's kidneys function properly. Your child's doctor(s) will discuss appropriate treatment options with you.

For more information

Association for the Bladder Exstrophy Community - <http://www.bladderexstrophy.com/>

Urology Health - <http://www.urologyhealth.org/pediatric/index.cfm?cat=01&topic=310>

Sources: <http://www.urologyhealth.org>, American Urological Association